

New Man Hits The Winner

BY 'NOVA'

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Windsor & Eton 1

THREE will be at least one trophy for Wycombe Wanderers' clubhouse shelves this year — the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup, won for the 17th time, after a dour and typically scrappy final tie with Athenian Leaguers Windsor & Eton at York-road, Maidenhead, on Easter Monday.

It was not until three minutes from time that the Wanderers clinched a somewhat uninspiring victory with a brilliant goal from one of their newest recruits, sandy-haired Brian French.

French's goal, after a courageous run, was one of the few bright efforts from a Wycombe forward line which showed little drive.

Windsor played soundly enough with their own particular version of the 4-2-4, especially in the first half, when they had enough chances to build up a convincing lead. But in the second period, when the Wanderers applied some concerted, if somewhat careless pressure, their single goal lead, scored midway through the first half, was shown to be not enough.

The fact that Wycombe scored only twice—through Hodges, with a fine header from a Worley free-kick to equalise after 66 minutes, and French—was due not to Windsor's well-organised defence but to the Wanderers' over-elaboration, careless passing and a strange unwillingness to shoot for goal.

OFF THE TARGET

Goss, in the Windsor goal, showed himself particularly vulnerable from the very early moments, when he dropped a long centre from Lewis at the feet of Lowen. But the Wanderers' leader made a feeble prod at the ball, which was easily cleared off the line. For the rest of the match Goss had to deal with fewer than half-a-dozen on-the-target shots, and from two of these he conceded goals.

Horseman looked unfit, French was too preoccupied with fetching and carrying, and Hodges kept running into, instead of round, Colin Newbold. Only Worley, despite his scant service from behind, looked capable of upsetting the Royalists' defence.

But it was the Wanderers' defence which looked the more suspect in the first half, and they never looked happy against the constantly switching Windsor forwards.

DANGER MAN

Bristow, on the left flank, was a constant source of danger and he gave Sewell, a late deputy for the unfit Beck, a testing time. But it was Terry Warth who seemed most likely to score. He led the unhappy Gale a merry dance.

Warth gave Windsor a deserved lead after 23 minutes when a long pass broke badly for Roystone.

The Wanderers rallied after this and took charge of midfield play but they never progressed beyond the Windsor penalty area, dominated by the gangling Millbank and the hard-working Badcock and Newbold.

Windsor started the second half just as sprightly but gradually

Roystone and Gale gained more control and the Royalists' attacking efforts became less frequent. Wycombe swung the ball about more and after Lowen had headed and shot twice over the bar the equaliser came with a fine header from Hodges from a Worley free-kick.

Windsor hit back briefly and Sewell just robbed Blythan in front of goal to save a nasty situation. But Wycombe now had their tails up as Gale probed forward, and the side seemed to wake up.

With only three minutes left French got the vital goal. Windsor made a final brave attempt but the alert Bunting just pushed Mortimer's shot round the post.